

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

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P R 201350Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7312

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2414

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, SY

SUBJECT: FORD TRACTORS

REF: STATE 91970

1. PER REFTEL INSTRUCTION, ECONOFF DISCUSSED WITH ENG. MOHAMMED AL-DEEK OF UNICHEM HIS TRAVEL PLANS IN NEAR FUTURE, NOTING AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WANTED TO MEET WITH HIM WEEK OF APRIL 26. DEEK, WITH WHOM WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONSHIP, APOLOGIZED AND NOTED HE WOULD BE OUT OF SYRIA APRIL 23 TO MAY 7. WE PROMISED TO INFORM U.S. BUSINESSMAN OF DEEK'S SCHEDULE TO DETERMINE WHETHER POST MAY 7 VISIT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND SO INFORM DEEK BY 4/23 IF WE RECEIVED ANSWER. PLEASE REPLY.

2. AS INSTRUCTED, WE DID NOT MENTION REASON FOR OUR INQUIRY. IF PETER D. GOUGH OF FORD TRACTOR DOES WISH US TO GO BACK TO DEEK PRIOR TO 4/23, WE SUGGEST WE AT LEAST BE ALLOWED TO MENTION GOUGH'S NAME SINCE HE AND DEEK HAVE ALREADY MET. OUR RECONTACTING DEEK IN THIS MANNER MIGHT ALSO ALLOW US TO OBTAIN DEEK'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE IN CASE THERE IS CHANCE FOR GOUGH/DEEK MEETING OUTSIDE OF SYRIA. WE WOULD NEED REPLY BY COB, 4/21.
MURPHY

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